

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03

L-02 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SAJ-01 NIC-01 SY-04 FBO-02 A-01

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O R 081532Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5192

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: UR CGEN PINT

SUBJ: SOVIET PROTESTER MANACLES SELF TO EMBASSY FENCE

1. SUMMARY: AT APPROXIMATELY 15:00 DEC. 8, A 26-YEAR-OLD SOVIET CITIZEN WHO SAID HE WAS YEVGENIY MIKHAILOVICH BORDOVSKIY (OR BARDOVSKIY) MANACLED HIMSELF TO IRON FENCE IN FRONT OF EMBASSY BENEATH FLAGPOLE. DURING ENSUING 45 MINUTES, CONSOFFS SPOKE INTERMITTENTLY WITH BORDOVSKIY AS CROWD OF BURLY MILITAMEN STRUGGLED IN ROUGH AND CHAOTIC ATTEMPT TO FREE HIM. MILITIA ALSO ENDEAVORED INTERMITTENTLY TO PUSH CONSOFFS AWAY FROM SCENE. WITH THE AID OF EMBASSY-SUPPLIED TOOLS INCLUDING HACKSAW AND METAL CUTTER, BORDOVSKIY WAS FINALLY RELEASED AND ROUGHLY HUSTLED INTO WAITING POLICE CAR OVER PROTESTS OF CONSOFFS ABOUT UNNECESSARY ROUGHNESS. CONSOFF IMMEDIATELY CALLED MFA USA BILATERAL SECTION CHIEF V.I. TRIFONOV TO REQUEST LENIENT TREATMENT AND A REPORT REGARDING DISPOSITION OF CASE END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFFS REPORTED TO CONSOFF AT APPROXIMATELY 15:10 THEY HAD SEEN MAN CHAINED TO FENCE IN FRONT OF EMBASSY. CONSOFF ARRIVING ON SCENE SAW YOUNG MAN
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SURROUNDED BY MILITIA AND SEVERAL PLAINCLOTHES FUNCTIONARIES

GATHERED AT FENCE DIRECTLY UNDER FLAGPOLE. THE MAN HAD MANAGED TO FASTEN HIMSELF TO FENCE USING THICK METAL LOOP ATTACHED TO MASSIVE HANDCUFF. HE HAD APPARENTLY CONCEALED THE LOOP UNDER HIS COAT, AND UPON REACHING FENCE, HAD THRUST LOOP THROUGH FENCE IN OPEN POSITION, LOCKED RIGHT ARM AROUND ADJACENT POST, GIRDED HIMSELF WITH LOOP, AND CLOSED HANDCUFF. HE WAS DRESSED IN SHABBY TROUSERS AND

SHIRT AND WORE OVERCOAT INTO THE LINING OF WHICH HE HAD SEWN PART OF AN AMERICAN FLAG. WHEN CONSOFF ARRIVED, THREE MILITIAMEN WERE TUGGING AT MAN IN UTTER FRUSTRATION, WHILE THE COAT HUNG OPEN REVEALING THE FLAG.

3. THE MAN SAID HE WAS YEVGENIY MIKHAILOVICH BORDOVSKIY (STREES SECOND SYLLABLE, PHONETIC) AGE 26, AND ON ASCERTAINING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING TO EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE, BEGAN SOMEWHAT INCOHERENT ACCOUNT OF REASON FOR HIS ACTION. SPEAKING IN RUSSIAN, HE SAID HIS FATHER, MIKHAIL IGNATIEVICH BORDOVSKIY, HAD BEEN "TORTURED IN MENTAL HOSPITALS FOR 20 YEARS" AND HE WANTED EMBASSY TO HELP HIM. HE CONTINUED THAT HIS FATHER HAD BEEN ARRESTED FOR DEMONSTRATION IN RED SQUARE DURING 1972 NIXON VISIT TO MOSCOW, AND GONE ON A 31-DAY HUNGER STRIKE WHICH "HAD AS GOOD AS KILLED HIM." HE FIRST INDICATED HIS FATHER WAS PRESENTLY INCARCERATED, BUT LATER CONTRADICTED THIS ASSERTION SAYING HIS FATHER HAD TRIED TO VISIT THE EMBASSY A SHORT TIME AGO.

4. BORDOVSKIY FURTHER ASSERTED HE HAD WRITTEN TO SOLZHENITSYN AND ATTEMPTED TO TELEPHONE SAKHAROV BUT THAT HE HAD BEEN PREVENTED FROM CONTACTING HIM. ASKED IF HE DESIRED TO EMIGRATE, HE REPLIED THAT HE AND HIS ENTIRE FAMILY WISHED TO DO SO. HE SAID HE BELIEVED HE HAD RELATIVES IN PHILADELPHIA, BUT WAS UNABLE TO NAME THEM. HE MENTIONED HE HAD WRITTEN A PETITION WHICH HE WISHED TO PRESENT TO THE EMBASSY, BUT THAT THE MILITIA HAD CONFISCATED IT WITH OTHER DOCUMENTS BEFORE CONSOFF ARRIVED ON SCENE. AS BORDOVSKIY SAID THIS, A MILITIAMAN BEGAN TEARING THROUGH BORDOVSKIY'S POCKETS, AS IF TO SEE IF HE HAD MISSED ANYTHING, AND CAME UP WITH SEVERAL SCRAPS OF PAPER AND AN UNOPENED BOTTLE OF ARMENIAN COGNAC.

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5. SEVERAL TIMES, BORDOVSKIY SAID HIS WIFE WAS STANDING ACROSS THE STREET AND WISHED ALSO TO ENTER THE EMBASSY. CONSOFF WAS UNABLE TO SEE HIS WIFE, AND BORDOVSKIY WAS EQUALLY UNABLE TO POINT HER OUT. FOR THE RECORD, HE SAID HE, HIS WIFE AND THREE CHILDREN LIVED AT MALAYA MORSKAYA 27, MIKOLAYEV, UKRAINE, TEL. 744-51.

6. CONVERSATION WAS PUNCTUATED BY REPEATED STRUGGLES OF MILITAMEN TO FREE BORDOVSKIY, OFTEN CAUSING HIM CONSIDERABLE PAIN. MILITAMEN LARGELY IGNORED CONSOFF'S ENTREATIES TO "TAKE IT EASY" BUT WERE UTTERLY BAFFLED BY EXTREMELY STURDY FASTENING DEVICE AND RESORTED FOR THE MOST PART MERELY TO TUGGING AND TWISTING BOTH MAN AND MANACLE. MILITIA HACKSAW BROKE AFTER BARELY SCRATCHING MANCLE. AFTER APPROXIMATELY 20 MINUTES HAD ELAPSED IN THIS MANNER, SECOND CONSOFF ARRIVED AND IN EFFORT TO COOPERATE WITH MILITIA IN ENDING DISORDERLY INCIDENT, SOON PRODUCED HACKSAW AND METAL CUTTER FROM EMBASSY WORKSHED AND REQUESTED HE BE ALLOWED TO FREE BORDOVSKIY. MILITIA'S RESPONSE WAS TO GRAB TOOLS AND BEGIN FIRST SAWING AT LOOP AND LATER, IN TWO-MAN ALL-OUT EFFORT, TO CUT 1/2-INCH THICK LOOP.

7. WHILE MILITIAMEN AT FIRST HAD MADE ONLY HALF-HEARTED ATTEMPT TO PREVENT CONSOFFS FROM SPEAKING TO BORDOVSKIY, AFTER APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES AND THE GATHERING OF A LEAST 14 UNIFORMED AND TWO PLAINCLOTHES SENIOR OFFICERS, THEY BEGAN TO PUSH AND SHOVE, ORDERING CONSOFFS TO RETURN INSIDE EMBASSY. THEY DENIED CONSOFFS' REQUEST THAT BORDOVSKIY BE ALLOWED TO ENTER EMBASSY AFTER HE WAS FREED, SAYING BORDOVSKIY WAS MENTALLY ILL AND THAT HE HAD BEEN INSIDE EMBASSY PREVIOUSLY AND REFUSED TO LEAVE (EMBASSY FINDS NO RECORD OF ANY PRIOR VISIT). INCREASINGLY FRUSTRATED OVER LACK OF SUCCESS WITH TOOLS (THEY HAD BEGUN SAWING IN AT LEAST THREE PLACES, ABANDONING EACH ATTEMPT HALFWAY DUE TO LACK OF SPEEDY RESULTS, AND LATER TRIED METAL CUTTER WITH EQUALLY LITTLE ORGANIZATION AND PURPOSEFULNESS), SEVERAL MILITIAMEN GREW INCREASINGLY HOSTILE TO CONSOFFS. CONSOFFS' REPEATED ENTREATIES THAT MATTER BE HANDLED CALMLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND AS GENTLY AS POSSIBLE WERE AT ONE POINT MET WITH BULL-LIKE CHARGE BY MOST AGGRESSIVE MILITIAMAN ENDING WHEN HE TRIPPED OVER FOOT OF HIS NEAREST COLLEAGUE. CONSOFFS WERE SEVERAL TIMES SHOVED AWAY FROM BORDOVSKIY BUT A LOUD PROTEST ON EACH OCCASION SUFFICED TO AVERT EVEN UGLIER INCIDENT.

8. AFTER APPROXIMATELY 45 MINUTES, SUPREME EXERTION WITH METAL CUTTERS BY TWO MILITIAMEN SUCCEEDED IN BREAKING LOOP. IT TOOK AT LEAST FIVE MORE MINUTES TO WEDGE LOCKED HANDCUFF THROUGH BARS OF FENCE, WHICH WAS MADE FINALLY POSSIBLE ONLY BY MILITIAMAN BENDING BARS APART. ONCE FREED, BORDOVSKIY WAS BODILY HOISTED ALOFT BY AT LEAST SIX MILITIAMEN AND CARRIED AT A FAST DOG-TROT TO NEARBY POLICE CAR INTO WHICH HE WAS

THROWN STILL STRUGGLING. CONSOFFS, WHO ACCOMPAINED
ENTOURAGE TO CAR, WAS ASSUED THAT BORDOVSKIY COULD
VISIT EMBASSY "IN ABOUT AN HOUR" IF HE STILL DESIRED TO
DO SO (SIC). CAR WITH BORDOVSKIY AND FOUR MILITIAMEN SPED OFF
WITH BORDOVSKIY STILL ATTEMPTING TO SHOUT
THROUGH OPEN WINDOW.

8. ON REENTERING EMBASSY, CONSOFF TELEPHONED MFA
USA BILATERAL CHIEF V. I. TRIFONOV TO REPORT INCIDENT
AND REQUEST BORDOVSKIY NOT BE MISTREATED AS CONSEQUENCE.
CONSOFF ALSO REQUESTED TRIFONOV REPORT DISPOSITION OF
CASE TO CONSOFF WHICH TRIFONOV AGREED TO DO.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTES, POLITICAL SITUATION, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MOSCOW18271
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740356-0397
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741251/aaaabrwa.tel
Line Count: 182
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <25 MAR 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET PROTESTER MANACLES SELF TO EMBASSY FENCE
TAGS: CGEN, PINT, UR, (BORDOVSKIY, YEVGENIY MIKHAILOVICH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005